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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

As chairman of Citizens Against Higher Taxes, a Pennsylvania public-interest group, I'd like to offer a brief comment on the proposed Microsoft settlement.

I am a long-time user of Word Perfect and despise Microsoft Word; it really gripes me that Word has run rings around Word Perfect in the marketplace. I'm sure millions of other users of non-Microsoft products feel as I do.

But we lost, fair and square, in the marketplace of consumer choice. Just because Microsoft is a successful company and produces an operating system and software that most people want to buy, is no reason to punish that success and hurt consumers.

I have looked over the proposed settlement terms and it certainly seems to me that they clearly meet any reasonable standard of curbing potential anti-competitive actions while still preserving relatively free consumer choice.

I would hope that the settlement is upheld, so an innovative and successful company can go about the business of providing ever-newer and better products that appeal to many people (though not especially to me).

James H. Broussard, Chairman
Citizens Against Higher Taxes